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AUTHOR Kiplagat, B. A., Ed.; Werner, M. C. M., Ed.
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ABSTRACT

The Telecommunications Foundation of Africa (TFA) was created in 1992 out of a conviction that insufficient telecommunications in Africa are an impediment to economic growth, and that more resources could be mobilized to strengthen this sector. This volume was made by TFA for readers both inside and outside of Africa and the telecommunications industry, and offers ideas and propositions on financing, regulation, and use of advanced technology and rural telecommunication. Twenty-five chapters, written by different authors, are divided according to themes: "Part I: Economics, Finance and Regulation"; "Part II: Users Needs"; "Part III: Regional Cooperation"; "Part IV: New Technology"; and "Part V: Country Studies." The following proposals are highlighted: (1) Telecommunications companies could be given autonomous powers to raise capital internationally, without seeking prior government approval; (2) private capital can be mobilized after legal reform of the telecommunications sector; (3) telecommunications should be considered as part of development program in other sectors, notably agriculture, education and health, to solve the deadlock in advancing rural telecommunications; and (4) advances in rural and low density telecommunications technology necessitate review of the economics of providing services to remote and disadvantaged areas. An appendix provides the objective, activities, board members, and contact address for the TFA. (MAS)

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